

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An information providing apparatus comprising:
a first authentication means for authenticating a first information processing unit;
a second authentication means for authenticating a second information processing unit;

a reception control means for controlling the reception of a transmission request for data for said second information processing unit and a key from said first information processing unit;

a communication control means for controlling the communication such that a transmission request for said key on the basis of said data for identifying said second information processing unit is sent to said second information processing unit and said key is received from said second information processing unit; and

a transmission control means for controlling the transmission of said key to said first information processing unit, wherein

said information providing apparatus functions as an authentication server having a key management program and a license management program.

Claim 5 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said key management program and said license management program are included in a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 6 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first information processing unit is a personal computer and, if said authentication server is unavailable, has a licensed compliant module that executes generally the same processing as an ordinary licensed compliant module.

Claim 7 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said license management program has a server authentication program and a portable device authentication program.

Claims 8-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An information providing method comprising the steps of:

authenticating a first information processing unit; authenticating a second information processing unit;

controlling the reception of a transmission request for data for identifying said second information processing unit and a key from said first information processing unit;

controlling the communication such that a transmission request for said key on the basis of said data for identifying said second information processing unit is sent to said second information processing unit and said key is received from said second information processing unit; and

controlling the transmission of said key to said first information processing unit, wherein

said information providing apparatus functions as an authentication server having a key management program and a license management program.

Claim 12 (Original): The information providing method according to claim 11, wherein said key management program and said license management program are included in a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 13 (Original): The information providing method according to claim 11, wherein said first information processing unit is a personal computer and, if said authentication server is unavailable, has a licensed compliant module that executes generally the same processing as an ordinary licensed compliant module.

Claim 14 (Original): The information providing method according to claim 11, wherein said license management program has a server authentication program and a portable device authentication program.

Claims 15-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): An information processing apparatus comprising:
an authentication means for authenticating a first information providing unit;
a transmission control means for controlling the transmission of a transmission request to said first information providing unit for data for identifying a second information providing unit that provides a key and said key; and

a reception control means for controlling the reception of said key provided and transmitted to said first information providing unit from said second information providing unit., wherein

said first information providing unit functions as an authentication server having a key management program and a license management program.

Claim 20 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said key management program and said license management program are included in a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 21 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said information processing apparatus is constituted as a personal computer and, if said authentication server is unavailable, has a same licensed compliant module that executes generally the same processing as an ordinary licensed compliant module.

Claim 22 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said information processing apparatus is constituted as a portable device and has a client licensed compliant module that executes cross-authentication in cooperation with said server licensed compliant module of said authentication server.

Claims 23-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): An information processing method comprising the steps of:

authenticating a first information providing unit; controlling the transmission of a transmission request to said first information providing unit for data for identifying a second information providing unit that provides a key and said key; and

controlling the reception of said key provided and transmitted to said first information providing unit from said second information providing unit, wherein

said first information providing unit functions as an authentication server having a key management program and a license management program.

Claim 27 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 26, wherein said key management program and said license management program are included in a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 28 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein said information processing apparatus is constituted as a personal computer and, if said authentication server is unavailable, has a same licensed compliant module that executes generally the same processing as an ordinary licensed compliant module.

Claim 29 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein said information processing apparatus is constituted as a portable device and has a client licensed compliant module that executes cross-authentication in cooperation with said server licensed compliant module of said authentication server.

Claim 30 (Canceled).